

**MINUTES OF THE LAFAYETTE COMMON COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 1, 1999
REGULAR SESSION**

The Common Council of the City of Lafayette, Indiana met in Regular Session on Monday, February 1, 1999, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 20 North 6th Street, Lafayette, Indiana.

President Probasco called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag of our Country.

The following members were:

Present: Boehning, Meyer, Phillips, Campbell, Downie, Rhoda, Fisher, Smith, Probasco
Absent: None

Councilman Campbell moved to recess for public hearings on Ordinance 99-1 (An Ordinance to Vacate a Public Way Within the City of Lafayette, Columbia Block Parking Garage) and Resolution 99-5 (A Resolution Confirming the Designation of and Economic Revitalization Area from Tax Abatement, Mail Code), Councilman Boehning seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. There was no public comment on Ordinance 99-1 or Resolution 99-5.

Councilman Meyer moved to reconvene the regular session, Councilman Rhoda seconded. The motion to reconvene passed by unanimous voice vote.

Councilman Boehning moved to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 1999 regular meeting, Councilman Smith seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Clerk stated that there were no Presentations or Disposal of Claims or Presentations of Petitions or Communications.

The Clerk stated that the following reports are available in the Clerk's Office:

City Clerk's Monthly Reports - November and December, 1998
Motor Vehicle Report - December 1998
Police Traffic Report - December 1998
Controllers Office Monthly Report - December 1998
Miscellaneous Monthly Department Reports

The Clerk read Ordinance 99-1 (An Ordinance to Vacate a Public Way Within the City of Lafayette, Columbia Block Parking Garage) by title only for second and final reading. Councilman Rhoda moved for passage, Councilman Campbell seconded. Councilman Boehning excused herself due to a possible conflict of interest on Ordinance 99-1. Ordinance 99-1 passed 7-0 on a roll call vote. Councilman Boehning returned to the meeting.

The Clerk read Ordinance 99-2 (An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, to Rezone from R1B, R2, R3, GB, CB and I3 TO R1U, R2U, R3U, NBU, GB, CB, I2 and I3, in the Ellsworth/SNIC Neighborhoods, Area Plan Commission of Tippecanoe County, Petitioner) by title only for first and final reading. Councilman Phillips moved for passage, Councilman Rhoda seconded. Jim Hawley, Executive Director of the Area Plan Commission, explained the proposal. Bob Carpenter,

619 S. 4th Street, Southside Neighborhood Improvement Coalition representative, spoke in favor of the proposal. President Probasco thanked the neighborhood for all of their effort on this proposal. Ordinance 99-2 passed 8-0 on a roll call vote.

The Clerk read Ordinance 99-3 (An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, to Rezone certain Real Estate from GB to R3U, Mark R. Scharer, et. al., Petitioner) by title only for first and final reading. Councilman Fisher moved for passage, Councilman Phillips seconded. Joe Bumbleburg, representing the petitioner, explained the proposal. Ordinance 99-3 passed 8-0 on a roll call vote.

The Clerk read Ordinance 99-4 (An Ordinance Amending the 1999/2000 Salaries for the Sanitation Department, Motor Vehicle Department (Streets), Police Department, and Parks Department) by title only for first reading. Councilman Campbell moved for passage, Councilman Rhoda seconded. Councilman Meyer asked if this proposal would increase any budgets. Eric Burns, City Attorney, stated that it would not increase any budget. Bill Yazbec, City Controller, answered several questions regarding the proposal. Ordinance 99-4 passed 8-0 on a roll call vote.

The Clerk read Ordinance 99-5 (An Amendment to Ordinance 98-32 Inclusion of Certain Property in the Local Ninth Street Hill Historic District in the City of Lafayette, Indiana) by title only for first reading. Councilman Rhoda moved for passage, Councilman Downie seconded. Councilman Meyer moved to amend the ordinance, Councilman Boehning seconded, with the amendment as follows:

And that Ordinance 98-32 is further amended by replacing section 12(b)3(a) with the following language to conform to State law at IC 36-7-11-14.

- (a) Before a demolition permit is issued or demolition proceeds, notice of the proposed demolition must be given for a period of not less than sixty (60) days to the actual demolition.

Councilman Meyer explained that the amendment is a result of the recommendation by the Council Ordinance Committee in order to be in compliance with Indiana State Law. President Probasco made several comments and expressed his support for the proposal. The amendment passed 9-0 on a roll call vote with President Probasco voting in favor of the proposal. Sandy Lahr, 822 Kossuth Street, spoke on behalf of the proposal. David Reap, 221 S. 9th Street, spoke on behalf of the proposal. President Probasco spoke in favor of the proposal. Ordinance 99-5, as amended, passed 9-0 on a roll call vote with President Probasco voting in favor of the proposal.

The Clerk read Resolution 99-5 (A Resolution Confirming the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area for Tax Abatement, Mail Code) by title only for first and final reading. Councilman Phillips moved for passage, Councilman Fisher seconded. Carroll Brooke, chief financial officer of Mail Code, explained the proposal. Resolution 99-5 passed 8-0 on a roll call vote.

The Clerk read Resolution 99-6 (A Resolution to Reallocate funds from the 1998 Community Development Block Grant - Resolution 98-9) by title only for first and final reading. Councilman Meyer moved for passage, Councilman Smith seconded. Sherry McLauchlan, Redevelopment Director, explained the proposal and commended the neighborhoods for their work on this effort. Councilman Meyer asked if Ms. McLauchlan anticipated a similar allocation for 1999. Ms. McLauchlan explained the possibilities for 1999. Councilman Smith asked for clarification on expenditures of this money. Penny Parmenter, 1024 Tippecanoe Street, and Linda Allen, gave a presentation on the Lincoln Neighborhood request. Councilman Boehning asked for clarification on the request. Councilman Meyer asked about progress on a neighborhood park. Councilman Phillips asked about problems with the current sidewalk policy. Councilman Campbell expressed concern about the neighborhood banners which were included in the request. Councilman Rhoda asked Sherry McLauchlan about this request.

Councilman Smith asked how much can be done on curbs and sidewalks with \$20,000. Opal Kuhl, City Engineer, explained why curbs and sidewalks must be done at the same time for drainage purposes. Ms. McLauchlan clarified participation in the curb and sidewalk program. David Reap, President of the Neighborhood Action Committee, spoke in favor of the proposal. Linda Allen, 916 N. 10th Street, spoke in favor of the Lincoln neighborhood proposal. Vickie Bollock, 1116 Columbia Street, representing St. Mary's Neighborhood Association, spoke about historic street lighting in the neighborhood. Councilman Meyer asked if some part of the proposal could be implemented with the partial allotment. Ms. McLauchlan explained that CDBG funds were rarely used to completely fund projects. Ms. McLauchlan further explained that the proposed funding was to cover trenching, boring, and installation of the historic lights and that the neighborhood would be responsible for the write down per fixture. Resolution 99-6 passed 8-0 on a roll call vote.

The Clerk read Resolution 99-7 (A Resolution Approving the Agreement Between the Lafayette Firefighter's Association, International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO and the City of Lafayette) by title only for first and final reading. Councilman Smith moved for passage, Councilman Downie seconded. Resolution 99-7 passed 8-0 on a roll call vote.

The Clerk read Resolution 99-8 (A Resolution Approving the Option Agreement Between the Lafayette Firefighter's Association, International Association of Firefighter, AFL-CIO and the City of Lafayette) by title only for first and final reading. Councilman Campbell moved for passage, Councilman Phillips seconded. Councilman Campbell asked about the procedure for establishing a merit board for the fire department. Mr. Burns explained the procedure. Councilman Fisher explained that there may be some changes on the salary schedule brought about for the 2000 salaries at some future date. Resolution 99-8 passed 8-0 on a roll call vote.

President Probasco stated that Ordinance 98-64 (An Ordinance to Vacate a Portion of the Public Way in the City of Lafayette, Habitat for Humanity, Petitioner) would remain tabled until time uncertain.

There were no Reports of Standing Committees.

There were no Reports of Special Committees.

Reports by Mayor: Mayor Dave Heath stated that the city should move forward with creating a merit system for the fire department similar to the police department. Mayor Heath invited everyone to join him and Congressman Pease on Thursday, February 18, 1999 at 1:00 p.m. at the Big Four Depot to celebrate the beginning of the end of Railroad Relocation. Mayor Heath gave the following State of the City Address:

Great milestones have a way of focusing attention on what is truly important. Your 50th birthday or your 25th wedding anniversary cause you to look at what you have done in the past and what you need to do in the future. It's a healthy exercise but not always easy to do. It's the same in the life of a City. As Lafayette prepares to cross into the 21st century and the next millenium, now is the time to take stock of where we have been and where we hope to go. We in City government are charged with many duties great and small. While we often spend a large amount of time and energy on the small but important every day tasks of serving the needs of the citizens, we must also take the time to set Lafayette's future course. As City leaders, I believe we must use three tools to chart an accurate course.

First, we must use our collective wisdom to determine what the people want and what is best for the City as a whole. True government leadership is not simply heading off any way the leader wants to go but finding the best direction from the will of the people and allowing the people to adjust the course as times goes by.

Knowing the will of the people requires listening and hearing. That is why it is so important that our City Clerk, Lisa Decker, has led the way to opening up City Hall by expanding access to public records, streamlining procedures, and long overdue computerization – all designed to keep the citizens informed. We have given a new meaning to open government with countless phone call and e-mails, hundreds of personal contacts through door to door information campaigns and Mayors Night-In and dozens of community meetings and forums hosted by the City. I am pleased to announce that for 1999, there will be 7 neighborhood meetings to hear from the citizens. These are being coordinated with the Lafayette School Corporation and will be held throughout the City starting this month and continuing through July. We continue to change and improve the face of City government as citizens speak and are heard.

You on the Council have served your constituents in being their eyes, ears and voice in the community and in City Hall. After hearing the needs of the people, your suggestions and input on all phases of City government have been invaluable in guiding the direction and progress of our efforts over the past three years.

The second tool we as government leaders must use involves providing the people with those things which only government can provide. These services make up the bulk of what citizens expect when they think of City services. It involves a great deal of trust. Citizens must be able to feel certain their hard earned tax dollars are being well spent. City government in Lafayette has entered a new era of accountability. Tax rates have dropped 2 out of the last 3 years and rates stayed level for 1999. Lafayette has the lowest tax rate of any City in its class in Indiana. By running City government like a business we have enhanced services and kept City taxes in check.

The City Council has overseen this new fiscal accountability and the department heads and board of works have been in the front lines of finding innovative ways to serve and save. New trash/recycling trucks have made one stop/one day pickups from residences an idea which has been very well accepted by the citizens and helped increase recycling while reducing the number of City personnel required.

Competition works. Competition in services and goods is now the rule, not the exception, in the City of Lafayette. Substantial costs are saved by allowing many consultants, law firms and providers of other services and goods to have an opportunity to work with the City. The best provider for the best costs gives value to the taxpayer. Annual costs for the City's engineering consultant and attorneys continue to save hundreds of thousands of dollars each and every year.

There was a time when our City did not have a professional traffic engineer, and lights on major thoroughfares were decades old and unsynchronized. This has all changed as we continue to modernize traffic flow in, around, and through our City. Significant traffic flow improvements have been made at 24 locations ranging from new signals to road widening to new intersection markings. We have made substantial progress, and we need to continue to work hard on this problem by bringing all possible solutions to bear on the problem. The people of our community are invaluable in this process. That is why I am asking the City Engineer to formulate a plan for a citizen's task force to identify the most pressing traffic problems and help in finding solutions.

Our City parks are on the move. All parks and park programs have been improved. The new Munger Park is open, Armstrong Park has been totally renovated, McCaw Park has a new baseball facility and Murdock Park has been upgraded. Our aquatic needs will be served by the Columbian Park Family Aquatic Center which opens this spring, and planned upgrades to neighborhood pools are in the works. All citizens and all parts of our city will have their aquatic needs met. Our children and grandchildren will look back fondly on what we are accomplishing for our park system.

City neighborhoods are flourishing. Neighborhood associations are growing and expanding as the city does its part in improving streets and sidewalks and making sure neighborhood problems are solved. The City will continue to insure fair and effective code enforcement.

Look around our great downtown, the heart of our City. The historic Lahr House is a reality. The first major new building in decades will soon be built with a public-private

partnership on the front of the parking garage site. Watch as the sidewalks continue to bustle with the new Sky Alland employees. Our downtown is alive and well.

Our police department is fully staffed for the first time in many years, and well equipped. Morale is at an all time high. Our police are getting the job done - the crime rate is down and our department's clearance rate is far above national averages.

Fire protection is excellent with new fire stations built and another station being planned. New firefighters are being added as necessary to continue keeping our fire coverage and emergency response capabilities in top shape.

Overall, we have reduced the total number of all city employees while adding 24 new police and firefighters.

A long overdue major wastewater plant upgrade is moving briskly through the planning stages. Like putting a new roof on your house, no one wants to do it but when it's time, it's time. Our citizens have to be able to rely on a steady, pure water supply and our water department is constantly installing, improving and planning to make sure this most basic need is met.

After decades of effort, our long awaited railroad relocation project is finally ready to pull into the station. Removing dangerous rail crossings and improving traffic flow will be completed 4 years ahead of schedule and under budget. As you know, a creative financing package combining Federal, state, local and railroad funds makes this possible. Teamwork at its finest.

It would be easy to sit back and allow our City to do things the old way, the way they have always been done. It would be easy to not rock the boat and keep things the same. It would be easy but it would also be wrong. The changes we have made have always met some resistance, but that is human nature. I'm sure railroads and telephones were also met with resistance in the past. Despite the resistance, I am grateful to you, the Council Members for not relying on the easy way out, but looking out for the best interests of all the people now and into the future.

There is a third tool which City government must use more and more in the upcoming century. City government must act as a catalyst to make good things happen. Government does not cause growth, but government must manage the growth that occurs in a community.

I am proud of our achievements as a team. Everyone should be proud of their role: citizens, neighborhoods, service agencies, businesses, and other government leaders from our county, state and our nation. It's working. Change is inevitable, progress is optional. Change will occur whether or not we want it or whether or not we plan for it. If we don't plan for change we will wake up one day wondering where we are and how we got there. We will plan for progress for our great City.

I am proud to report that the state of the City of Lafayette is excellent and improving as we follow the course to progress.

Thank you all very much.

Miscellaneous and New Business: Councilman Campbell moved to reappoint Sandy Lahr, Hubert Yount and President Probasco to the Historic Review Board, Councilman Fisher seconded. The appointments were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Reports of Councilman: Councilman Smith explained that a northside aquatic needs meeting was held by the Parks Department and felt that the meeting went well.

There was no Public Comment.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilman Campbell moved to adjourn, Councilman Fisher seconded. The Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Time being 8:29 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Lisa Decker, City Clerk.

A tape recording of this council meeting is maintained in the City Clerk's Office.